GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2702
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
SAFETY IN COAL MINES
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the Government has made any survey regarding performance of Directorate General of mines safety to ensure safety of mine workers in coal mines and other mines also;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (c): The Government has not made any survey regarding performance of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) to ensure safety in Coal Mines and other mines so far. However, in 1982 a Review Committee on the role and functions of DGMS was set up by the Govt. of India under the chairmanship of Shri J.G. Kumaramangalam, Chairman, Executive Board, Indian School of Mines.

A Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament of Ministry of Labour headed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, was also set up by the Govt. of India in 1995 to study the status of safety in mines and suggest suitable measures for ensuring better safety standards. The Committee, in the process, also reviewed the functioning of DGMS.

The main recommendations of Kumaramangalam Committee include, inter-alia,

i) Unchanged role of DGMS in enforcemental functions.

ii) Checking of erosion of authority of DGMS.

iii) Setting up of special mining tribunals for speedy trial of Mines Act cases.

iv) Levy of fine by DGMS on mine management for violations.

v) Conducting annual general inspections of all mines by DGMS.

vi) Making Safety Committee and workman`s inspector system statutory.

vii) Rendering advice on occupational health.

viii) Improving technical competence in DGMS.

ix) Size and structure of DGMS should be assessed early to carry out its functions.

The main recommendations of Gurudas Dasgupta Committee include, inter alia,

i) DGMS should be strengthened by providing adequate and requisite manpower as per recommendations of the Kumaramangalam committee.

ii) Adequate training to all officers both in-house and outside to update their skill.

iii) Quantum of punishment under the Mines Act, 1952 should be enhanced.

iv) Special courts/designated courts be set up to deal with all cases under the Mines Act, 1952 for expeditious disposal.

v) Legal set up in DGMS should be suitably strengthened for expeditious deliverance of justice.

Some of these recommendations have already been implemented.